

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraphs [0015] and [0026] with the following rewritten paragraphs of like number:

--[0015] The invention will be explained in further detail below with reference to Figures in which, in a schematic presentation:

FIG. 1 shows the construction of an objective having an illumination incoupling system according to the present invention;

FIG. 1A shows the division of the front lens element group of the objective into the front lens element group parts for observation and for illumination, respectively;

FIG. 2 shows the construction of a conventional illumination incoupling system above the main objective;

FIGS. 3A through 3C show variants of the deflection element with variously curved deflection surfaces and entrance and exit surfaces;

FIG. 4 shows a variant of the illumination incoupling system according to the present invention having a deflection element that is arranged in the plane of the front lens element group for illumination; and

FIG. 5 shows the front lens element group parts optically decoupled by means of a cover; and

FIG. 6 shows a variant of the construction shown in FIG. 1, wherein the separation of the first and second objective parts deviates from bisection.

[0026] Observation beam path 4 thus also continues to be directed through the unmodified objective part 10a for observation. According to the present invention, illumination beam path 2 is coupled in directly via front lens element group 9. The detached objective part 10b for illumination, although it is arranged e.g. perpendicular to optical axis 1 of the original objective 8, is used as before in order to image subject field 3. The complex configuration of the detached objective part 10b for illumination thus results in correspondingly good correction of illumination beam path 2. Note in this context that the now-increased air gap and the path in

glass in deflection element 12 should be incorporated into the correction of illumination beam path 2, either as a modified correction of objective part 10b for illumination or in terms of the selection of illumination optical system 13, which is still additionally required. As shown in FIG. 6, the separation of the first objective part 10a and the second objective parts may deviate from bisection, and does not necessarily have to be a bisectonal separation as depicted in FIG.

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